

John was an average student at Dunwood Middle School in all academic areas except social studies, which gave him trouble. The problem was not his teacher, Mr. Street, nor was it his lack of attention in class. It seemed to be the fact that John could not remember all of the names of the cities and countries that he was supposed to, even though he completed his homework every night. John even worked on his social studies on the weekends!

The night before a big test John would study and take notes by reading the chapter in the textbook and then answering all the questions at the end. He did not find it too hard to answer the questions. Then he studied the various maps that showed the geographical areas they were studying. Afterwards he tried to close his eyes and picture each map and the names of the cities.

After John took the test, he received a note from Mr. Street saying he had failed again. "I want you to get this signed by your parents tonight and return it to me in the morning," said Mr. Street with a frown. He did not understand why John made such poor grades. He hoped the note would encourage John to study harder.

John was reluctant to give the note to his parents because they were rarely angry with him. John wanted to keep it that way. His

father read the note and signed it before he said anything to John. John could not meet his father's gaze as he handed back the note. "I am sorry, Dad, that I made such a low score, but I tried to study and it did not seem to help," said John.

Then John and his father started to talk about the way he studied and where he studied. They realized that John had both the TV and the radio on while he studied. These things probably distracted John while he was trying to concentrate.

When John had his next social studies test, he studied in his room which had neither a TV nor a radio. He made a B+ on his test and he was proud to show it to his father. "You were right, Dad. I must have been distracted by the noise of the TV and radio," said John with a smile. He knew that he would be making good grades in social studies from now on.

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